



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Virtual Special Meeting
1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020, 7:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen
Absent: None
Staff Present: Jeff Bond, Community Development Director
Justin Fried, Transportation Planner
Mark Hurley, Public Works Director
Robert Gonzales, CIP Manager
Emile Morales, Associate Engineer
Anne Hsu, City Clerk

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner McCroskey announced Albany's segment of the Bay Trail is open and offers beautiful views.

Commissioner Jordan thanked the Park District for opening the trail during the pandemic.

3. PRESENTATION

3-1. Monthly Police Data on Collisions and Citations

Fried reported no pedestrian or bicycle collisions, 4 vehicle collisions, one of which involved injuries, 2 moving citations, and no DUI arrests in April. The Police Department does not believe the citations issued in March and April supports a supposition of additional speeding. However, officers have the discretion to stop a vehicle without issuing a citation or warning, to issue a warning, or to issue a citation.

3-2. Shared Mobility Data

Fried advised that active GIG member usage totaled 92 in April. Trip starts and ends decreased to 208 and 223 in April. More than 500 vehicles were in service during April, and an average of five to seven vehicles per day were located in Albany.

The Commission requested the following clarification:

- The number of vehicles in service increased due to plans made prior to the pandemic.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2020.

Recommendation: That the Transportation Commission approve the meeting minutes for the virtual meeting of April 23, 2020.



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Virtual Special Meeting

1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA

Jordan/Javandel: Moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2020 meeting as presented.

Ayes: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

5-1. Albany Sidewalk Program—2020 Sidewalk Repairs – Staff will present plans for sidewalk repairs funded by Measure P1 parcel tax. Locations were identified in accordance with the prioritization criteria established by the Commission.

Recommendation: Recommend that the City Council authorize release of invitation to bid for construction of sidewalk improvements at the proposed locations as presented by staff.

Morales reviewed the approved prioritization criteria for sidewalk repairs. For this repair project, staff evaluated more than 700 locations and ranked them according to the criteria. Locations with a greater than 2-inch vertical displacement (Group C) were given additional priority. In some locations, adjacent but lower-ranked sidewalks were included in the list for repairs. The ranking of locations was further refined through field evaluation and feedback from residents. Some locations conflicted with trees and were moved to a separate process. Staff selected 48 locations from the ranked list for the repair project and notified the property owners of the Transportation Commission meeting and the potential for repairs. The 48 locations are composed of 14 sidewalks ranked in Group A, 25 in Group B1, and 9 in Group C. The City's arborist has reviewed the locations and provided design feedback. Preliminary designs have been completed for all locations. Next steps are to finalize designs, obtain bids, and begin construction.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- No locations include rebuilding curb cuts.
- Field evaluations revealed that residents have repaired a handful of the 700 locations, and those locations have been removed from the list.
- The project cost is estimated at \$115,000. Currently, approximately \$500,000 is available for sidewalk repairs. If the contractor's work is satisfactory and timely, a change order may be requested for additional sidewalk repair locations.
- If a sidewalk repair requires tree removal, it will be presented to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission for approval.
- Staff is negotiating a contract for an overall sidewalk survey, which has to be completed by the end of 2020.
- Once the survey is complete, the prioritization criteria can be revised and focus more on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) barriers.

The following PUBLIC COMMENTS were offered by Katie:

- A question about the process for adding a location to the repair list.



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Virtual Special Meeting

1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA

Morales explained that the property owner should provide the address for a repair to staff, who will inspect and evaluate the sidewalk. Staff will provide the property owner with their evaluation and the ranking and priority of the location.

The Commission made the following comments:

- Encouragement for the contractor to comply with the concrete color requirement.
- A preference for the City to maintain a 5-foot sidewalk width and retaining curbs should stay outside of sidewalk width.
- Sidewalk repairs performed in 2016 as a pilot project should be added to the map of sidewalk repairs. Tracking repairs and subsequent conditions over time may provide data for repair demand once the backlog is finished and for reauthorization of Measure P1.
- A map of sidewalk repairs that includes sidewalk repairs performed by private property owners would be helpful for reauthorizing Measure P1.
- The lack of systematic data collection on the hazard of poor sidewalks places sidewalk users at an inequitable disadvantage to road users.

Jordan/McCroskey: Moved to recommend the City Council authorize the release of an invitation to bid for construction of sidewalk improvements at the proposed locations presented by staff.

Ayes: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen

Noes: None

Recusal: None

Absent: None

5-2. Plans for Curb Ramp Upgrades on Solano Avenue between Madison Avenue and Masonic Avenue – Staff will present plans for the reconstruction of curb ramps on Solano Avenue between Madison Avenue and Masonic Avenue

Recommendation: Recommend that the City Council approve designs for curb ramp upgrades on Solano Avenue between Madison Avenue and Masonic Avenue

Morales reported in December 2019 the Council approved an ADA settlement agreement that commits the City to correcting accessibility barriers. The City agreed to provide accessible curb ramps along Solano Avenue from Madison to Masonic within two years of December 2019. Within ten years of December 2019, curb ramps along Solano Avenue from Masonic to the eastern city limit will have to be improved. The settlement agreement increased the priority of a project already in development, and staff obtained Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for repairs to curb ramps. The funding expires this year. Curb ramps along Adams Street and San Pablo will be corrected in other projects. The curb ramps were designed in 1980s and 1990s to County of Alameda standards, and 43 of the existing ramps do not comply with prior or current ADA standards. Six curb ramps have been rebuilt and comply with standards. Staff proposes to redesign and rebuild ten curb ramps and correct the remaining 33 ramps.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- This project and the sidewalk repair project will not be constructed simultaneously, but one contractor could obtain the bids for both projects and provide economies of scale.
- Staff plans to specify a named product for truncated dome mats with the higher friction coefficient and the lamp black concrete mixture for color.



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Virtual Special Meeting

1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA

- Funding for this project was allocated through Alameda County-administered CDBG funds.
- (Madison) Construction of a curb ramp will not result in a wedge that is a tripping hazard; the 2-inch differential between the top of curb and the flowline can be painted red if kept; the slopes and constraints are complicated, but staff is attempting to reorient curb ramps in corrective designs.
- (Kains) The ramp on the east side of the northern crosswalk will be corrected rather than reconstructed.
- (Talbot) At the rebuilt curb ramp, staff may approach the business owner about removing a 3-foot by 5-foot strip of landscape if in the right-of-way to improve sidewalk path of travel.
- (Masonic) Staff will explore lowering the power box on the southwest corner so that the ramp can be constructed over the power box.

The Commission made the following comments:

- (Madison) The tree well at the southeast corner could be similar to the expanded tree well at Adams and Solano.
- (Madison) A suggestion to round the southwest corner of the planter box if the shape of the planter is altered.
- (Madison) Don't paint the differential red if there is no physical obstacle.
- (Madison) Support for the single ramp wrapping around corner where drain clean outs preclude flares.
- (Masonic) The planters and bench at the southwest corner make maneuvering along the sidewalk difficult.

Jordan/Javandel: Moved to recommend the City Council approve designs for curb ramp upgrades on Solano Avenue between Madison Avenue and Masonic Avenue.

Ayes: Javandel, Jordan, McCroskey, del Rosario, Paulsen

Noes: None

Recusal: None

Absent: None

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6-1. Update on Strategies for Improving Physical Distancing on Publicly Owned Rights-of-Way

Bond reported staff will present to the City Council on June 1 a request for direction regarding use of publicly owned rights-of-way for physical distancing. Staff will be recommending this then be brought to the Economic Development Committee and the Transportation Commission.

The Commission requested the following clarifications:

- A restaurant's request to use parking spaces adjacent to the restaurant could probably be handled under existing processes.
- Staff will seek Council direction regarding the body responsible for making decisions on requests to use public spaces.

The Commission made the following comments:



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Virtual Special Meeting

1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA

- A suggestion for decisions regarding requests be made quickly as conditions change rapidly.

Commissioner Jordan indicated he presented information about the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) StreetSaver software to the Bay Area League of Women Voters, who referred the topic to its transportation committee.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Fried advised that the traffic calming project for the 1000 block of Masonic and the 2020 State Active Transportation Program are planned for the agenda in June or July.

Commissioner del Rosario requested an update regarding pedestrian recall phases for traffic signals if staff has made any changes.

At Commissioner Jordan's request, Bond reported the Council supported use of the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage tax revenues for the crossing guard program, the Healthy Me Music and Movement program, and the Youth on Bikes program and discussed use of some revenues for food security issues related to COVID-19.

8. **NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, June 25, 2020, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue or virtual meeting pursuant to state and county COVID-19 guidance.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.